THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and.(b) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme (AIMMP) under which Madarsas which volunteer to introducde modern subjects, in addition to their traditional curriculum, are provided financial assistance for the expenditure on salary of teachers to teach modern subjects, for science-maths kits and for book banks. The financial assistance is given through the respective State Governments.

Setting up of village courts .

372. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

whether Government has announced that 7,000 village courts would be set up in the country;

if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh;

what steps Government would take to man these courts; and

the present status of courts in each and every village in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Bill for establishing Gram Nyayalayas is pending before Rajya Sabha. The State Governments will be consulted before bringing into force the provisions of this enactment. It is proposed to establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district.

Presiding officers to these courts will be appointed by the concerned State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts.

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for modernisation of courts

† 373. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

the details of funds allocated for the modernization of lower courts and High Courts/ Supreme Court and also their structural expansion in the country during the last Five Years Plan and the current Five Year Plan;

whether these funds are sufficient; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to raise the amount of this fund for the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) An outlay of Rs. 700 crore was provided in theTenth Five Year Plan for modernization of all the courts including, computerization of the High Courts and the city courts, development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary and the construction of High Courts, in the current

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.